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# Evaluating NOAA Satellite Products for Global Climate Monitoring

by  
John J. Bates

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1. Validation criteria for satellite products
2. Long-term global validation examples
3. Lessons of history - Applications to the EOS era

# 1. Validation criteria for satellite products

- 1.1. Are the physics of the radiative transfer sound?
- 1.2. How do the means and higher moments compare with in situ measurements?
- 1.3. How do the spatial and temporal variations in the satellite data compare with other observations and hydrodynamic models?

# The Forward and Inverse Problems in Remote Sensing of the Environment

## The Forward Problem

Using radiative transfer theory and relevant geophysical variables, model the upwelling and scattered radiance that a particular instrument should measure

Interpreters - Required to specify a base state around which the radiative transfer equation is linearized

Class 1 A priori information dependent  
Hydrodynamic model dependent

Class 2 A priori information dependent  
Hydrodynamic model independent

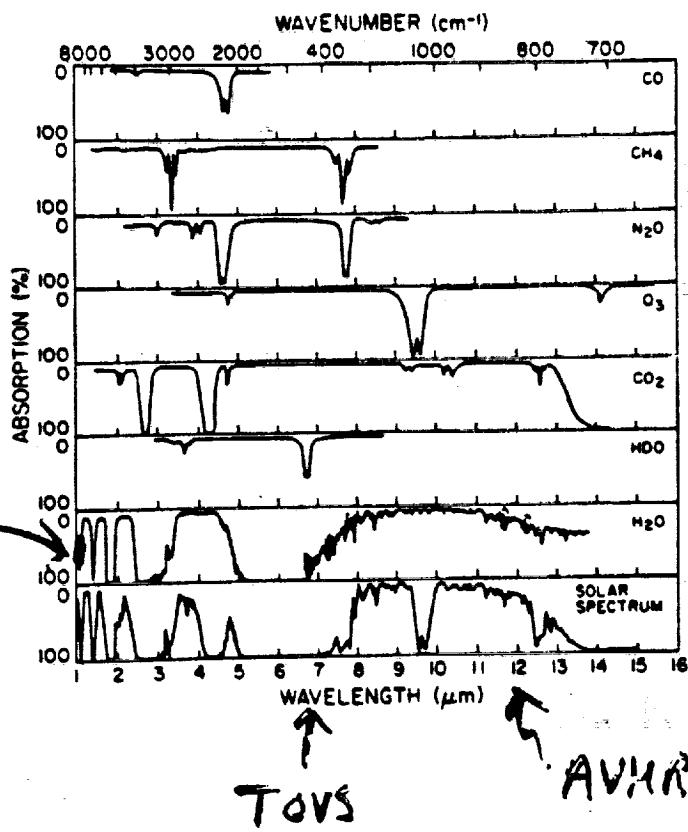
Class 3 A priori information independent  
Hydrodynamic model independent

## The Inverse Problem

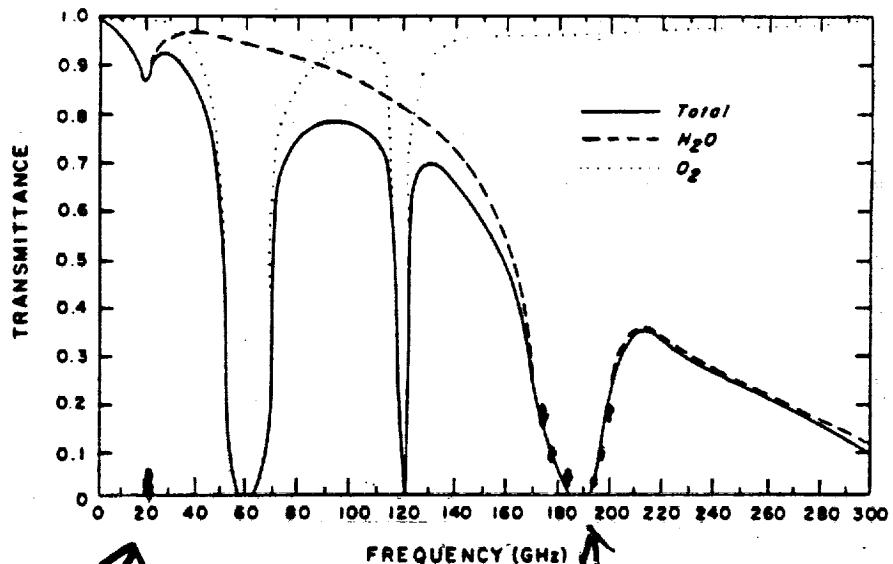
Using upwelling and scattered radiances, invert the radiative transfer equation to retrieve geophysical variables

$$R_\nu = -\epsilon_s B_\nu(T_s) \tau_\nu(p_s) - \text{Surface} \rightarrow \text{Cloud EMISSION}$$
$$+ \int_{p_s}^{\infty} B_\nu(T(p)) \frac{d\tau_\nu(p)}{dp} dp - \text{ATMOSPHERIC TERM}$$
$$+ (1 - \epsilon_s) \int_0^{p_s} B_\nu(T(p)) \frac{d\tau_\nu^*(p)}{dp} dp - \text{REFLECTED ATMOSPHERIC TERM}$$

# INFRARED



# MICROWAVE



## 2. Long-term global validation examples

### 2.1. Sea surface temperature

#### 2.1.1. The JPL intercomparison workshops

#### 2.1.2. Evaluation of the operational MCSST product

### 2.2. Global water vapor content

#### 2.2.1. TOVS study conference comparisons

#### 2.2.2. HIRS channel 12 brightness temperature climatology

## 2. Long-term global validation examples

### 2.1. Sea surface temperature

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#### 2.2.1. TOVS study conference comparisons

#### 2.2.2. HIRS channel 12 brightness temperature climatology



INTERPRETING MULTI-CHANNEL  
SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURES  
FOR AN INFRARED WINDOW CHANNEL

$$R_i = B_i (T_s) \tau_i + \epsilon_i (T_s) (1 - \tau_i)$$

CONVERT FROM RADIANCE TO  
BRIGHTNESS TEMPERATURE AND  
USE WEAK ABSORPTION APPROXIMATION

$$T_i - T_s = k_i \lambda (\bar{T} - T_s)$$

FOR TWO WINDOWS  $i$  AND  $j$

$$T_s = T_i + \frac{k_i}{k_i + k_j} (T_i - T_j)$$

WHERE  $k_i$  &  $k_j$  ARE ABSORPTION  
COEFFICIENTS ASSUMING A  
SINGLE ABSORBING GAS VARIES

IN THE TWO WINDOWS

AVHRR/2 CHANNELS 4 + 5

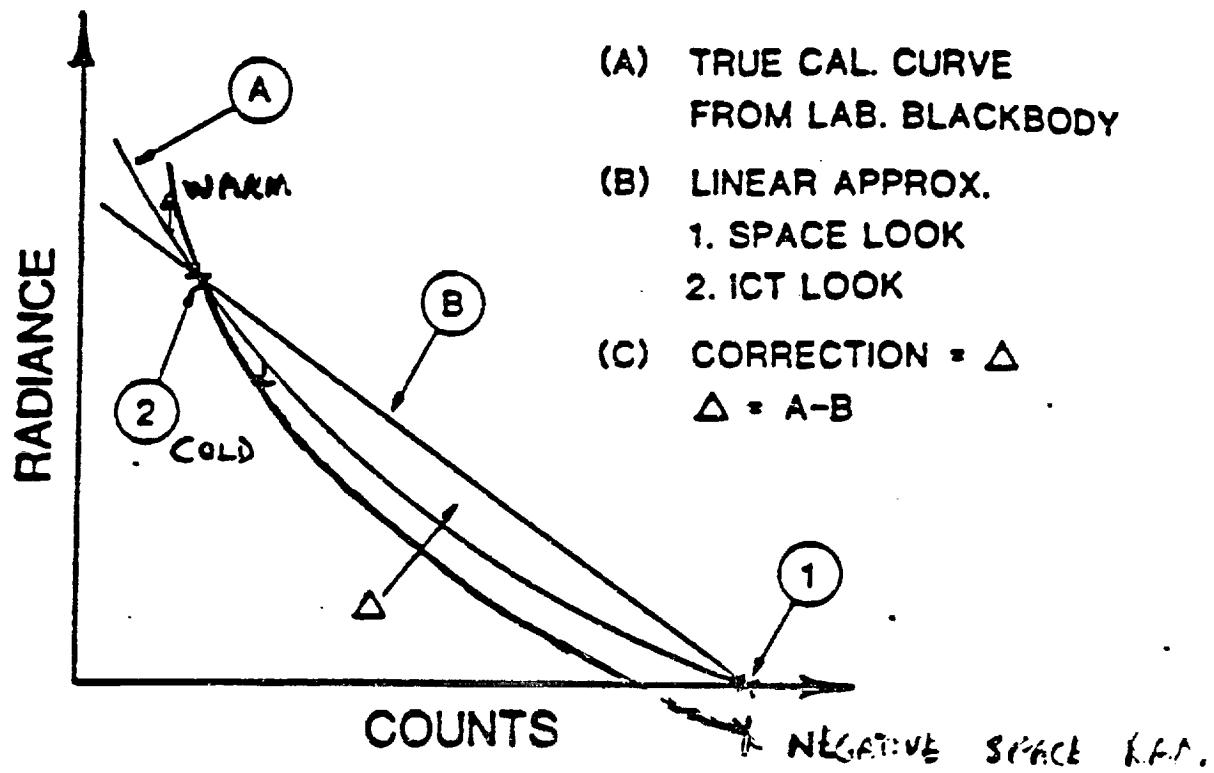


Fig. 3. Illustration of how nonlinearity correction terms are computed.

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ZONALITY AND VARIETIES OF MINERAL DEPOSITS

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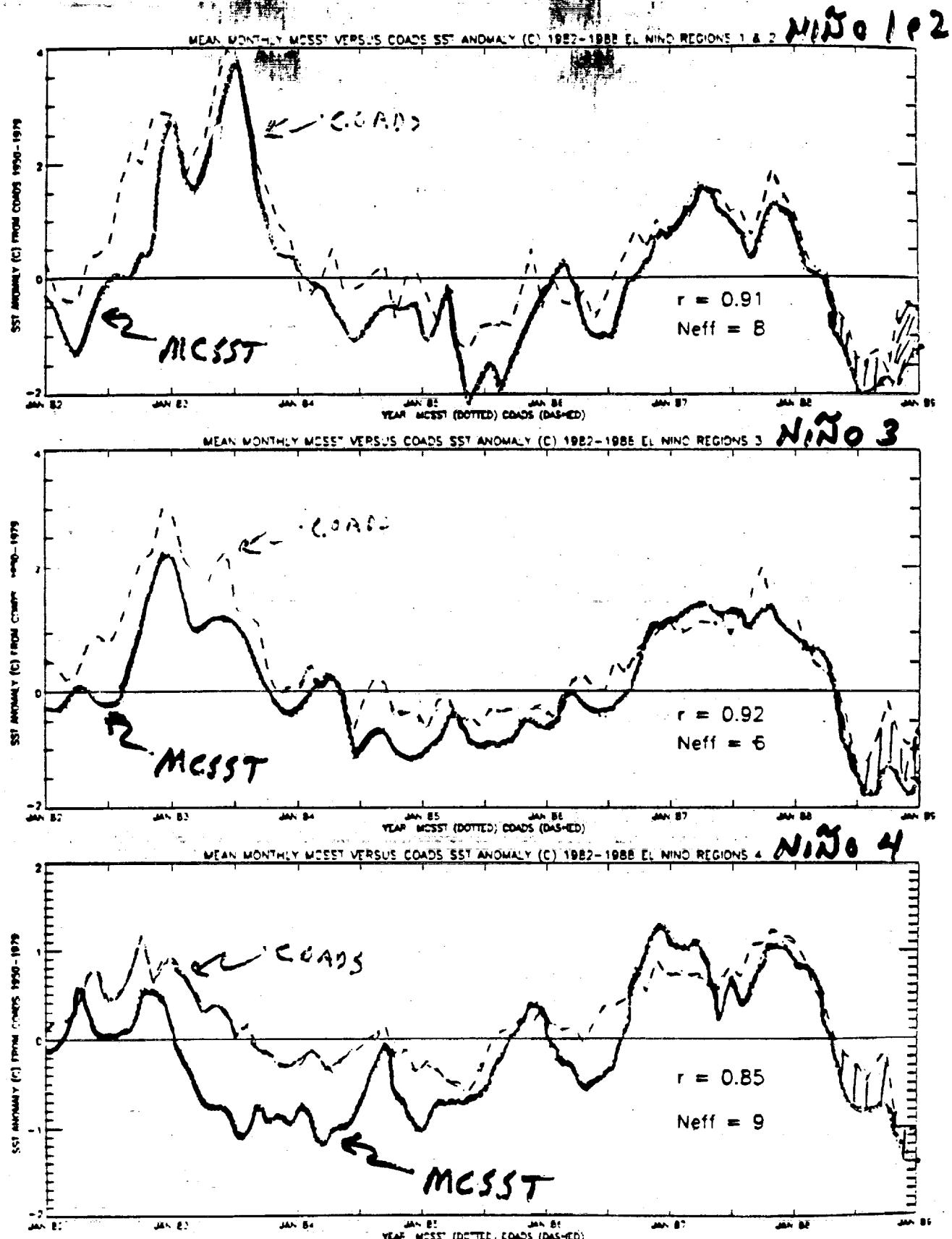
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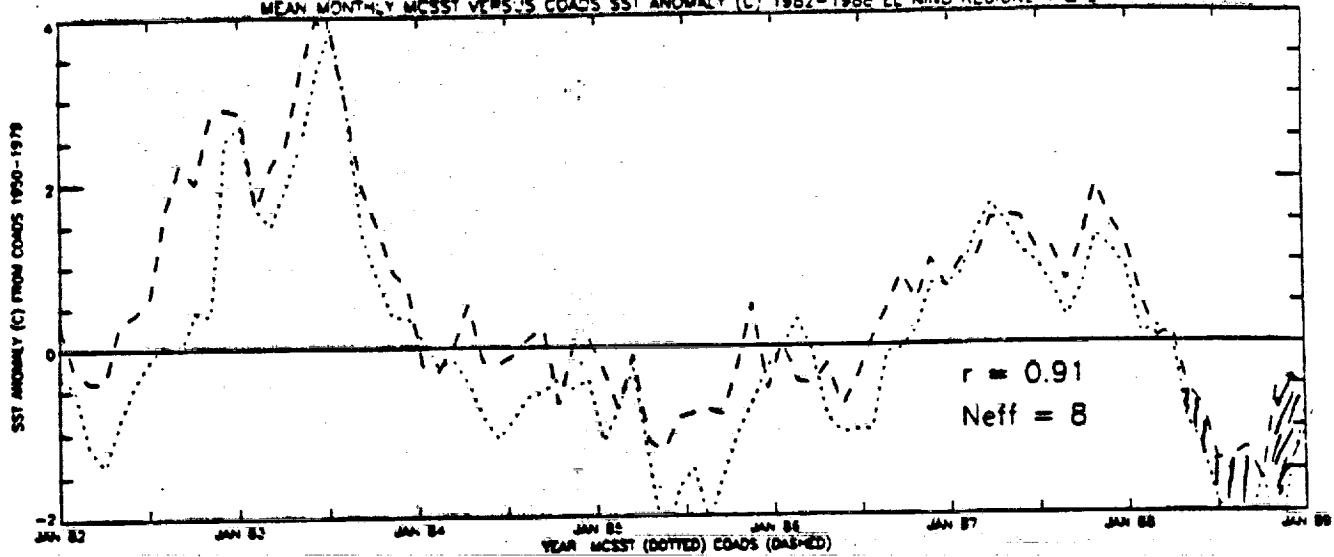
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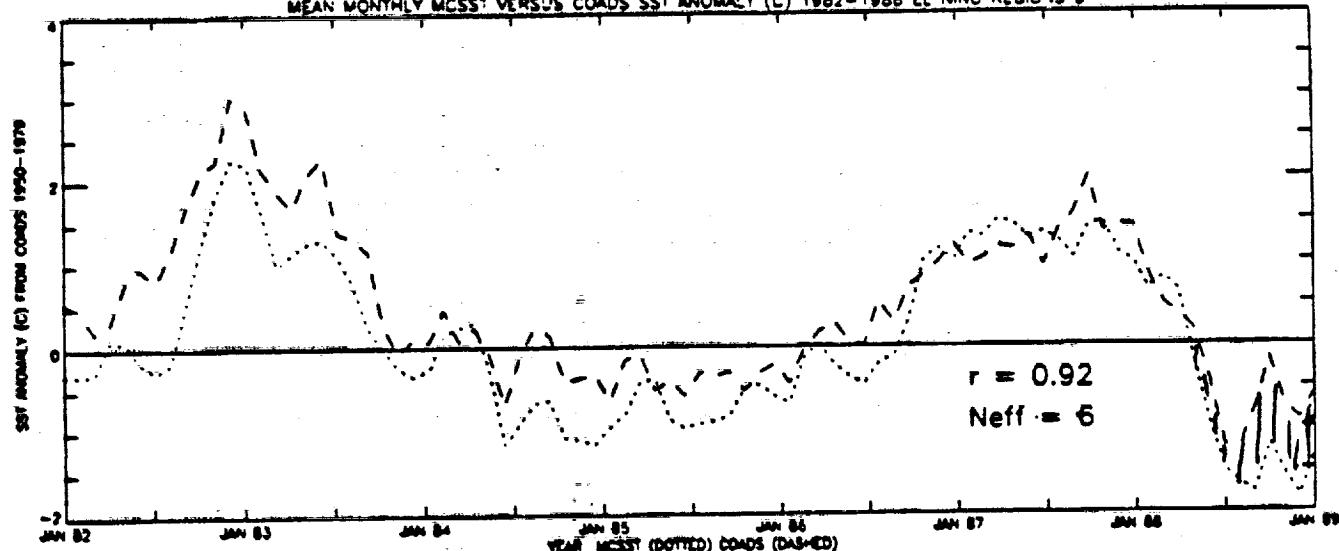
# EL NIÑO REGIONS



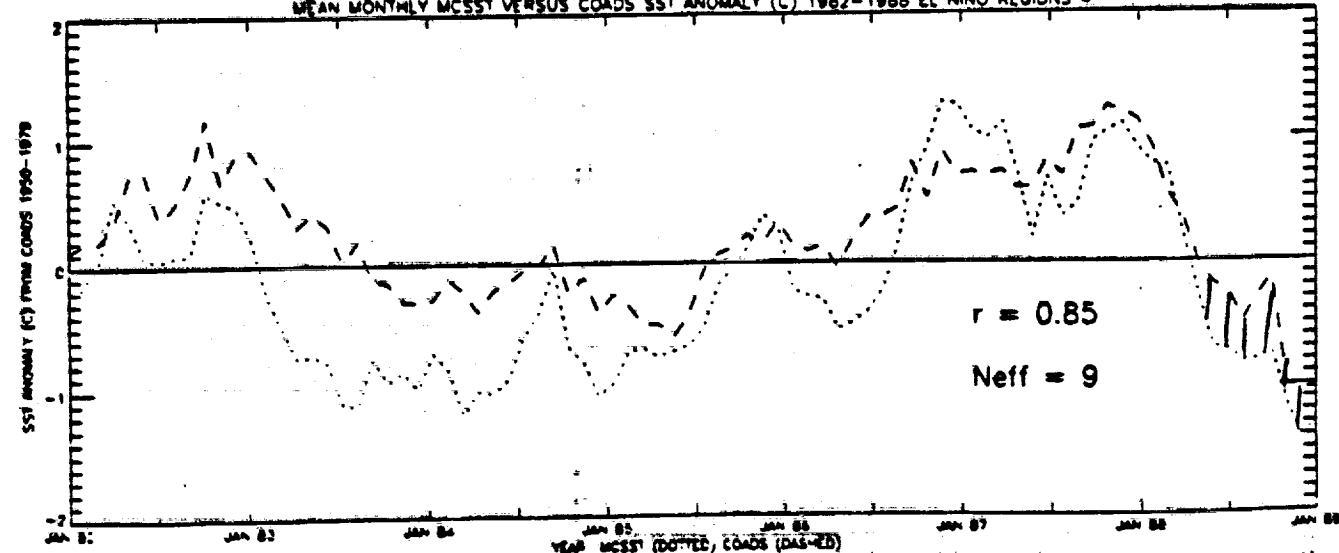
MEAN MONTHLY MCSSST VERSUS COADS SST ANOMALY (C) 1982-1988 EL NINO REGIONS 1 & 2



MEAN MONTHLY MCSSST VERSUS COADS SST ANOMALY (C) 1982-1988 EL NINO REGIONS 3



MEAN MONTHLY MCSSST VERSUS COADS SST ANOMALY (C) 1982-1988 EL NINO REGIONS 4



# SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

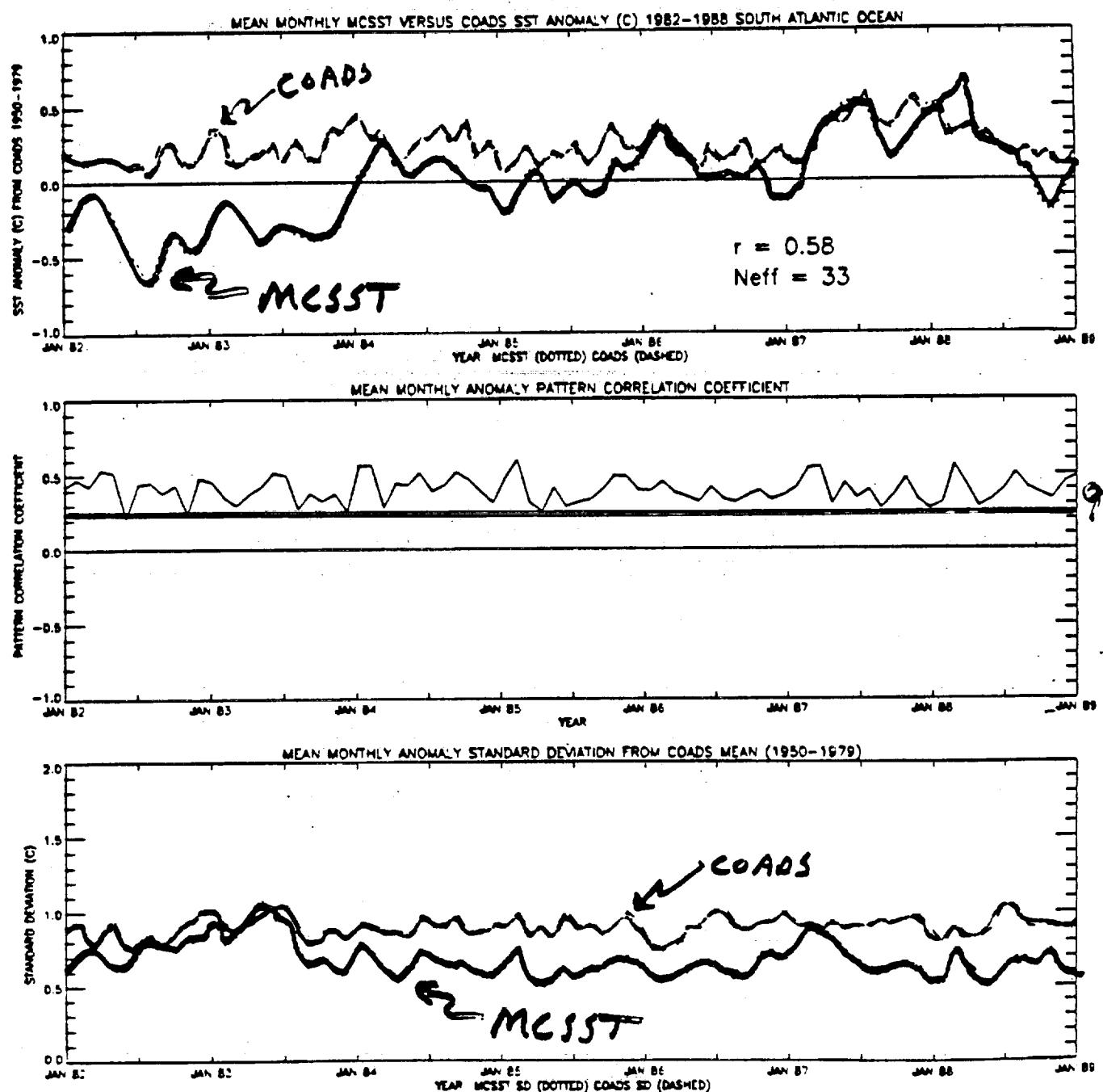


FIG 7

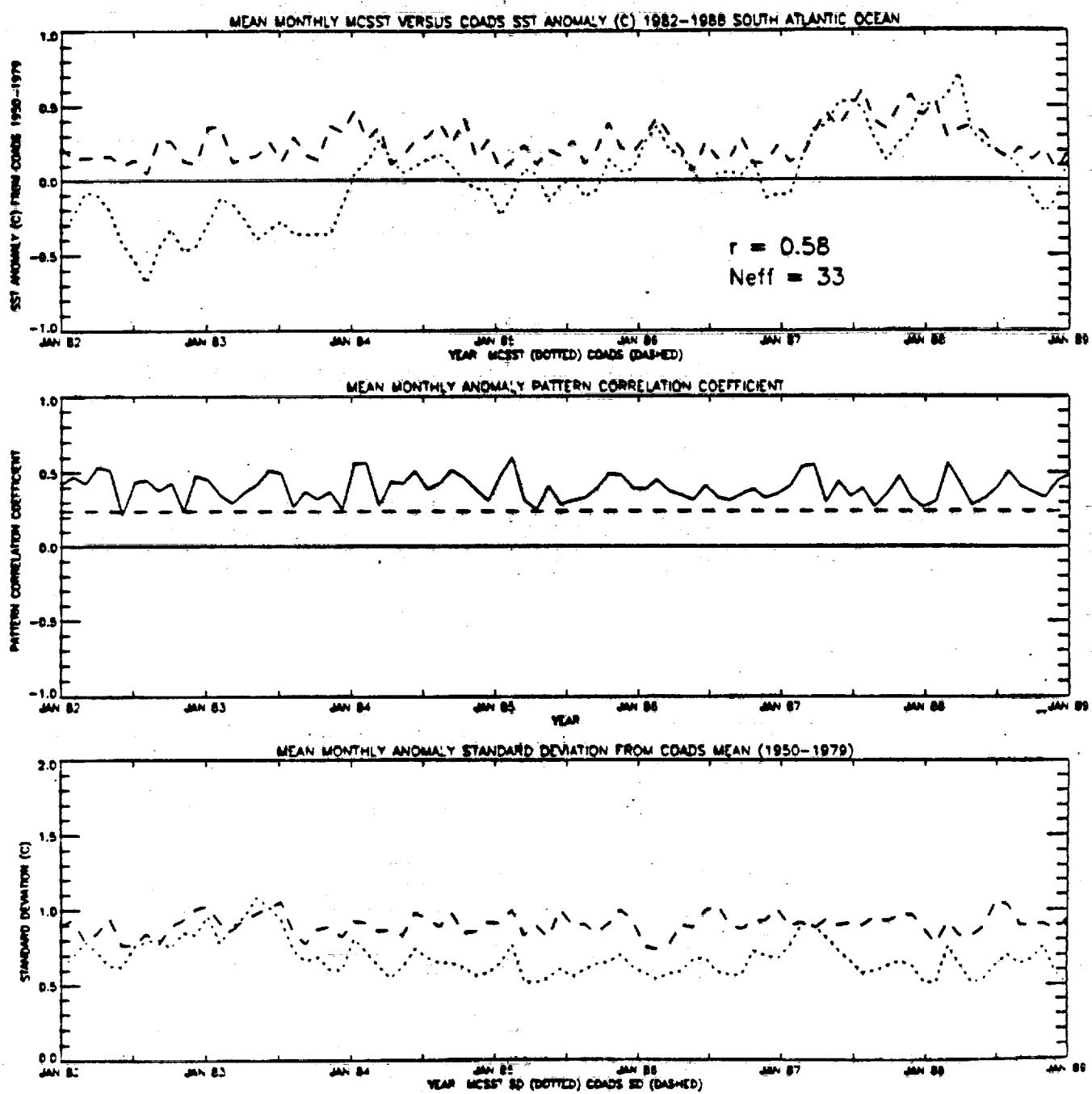


FIG 7

# 557 SUMMARY STATISTICS

## STATISTICS

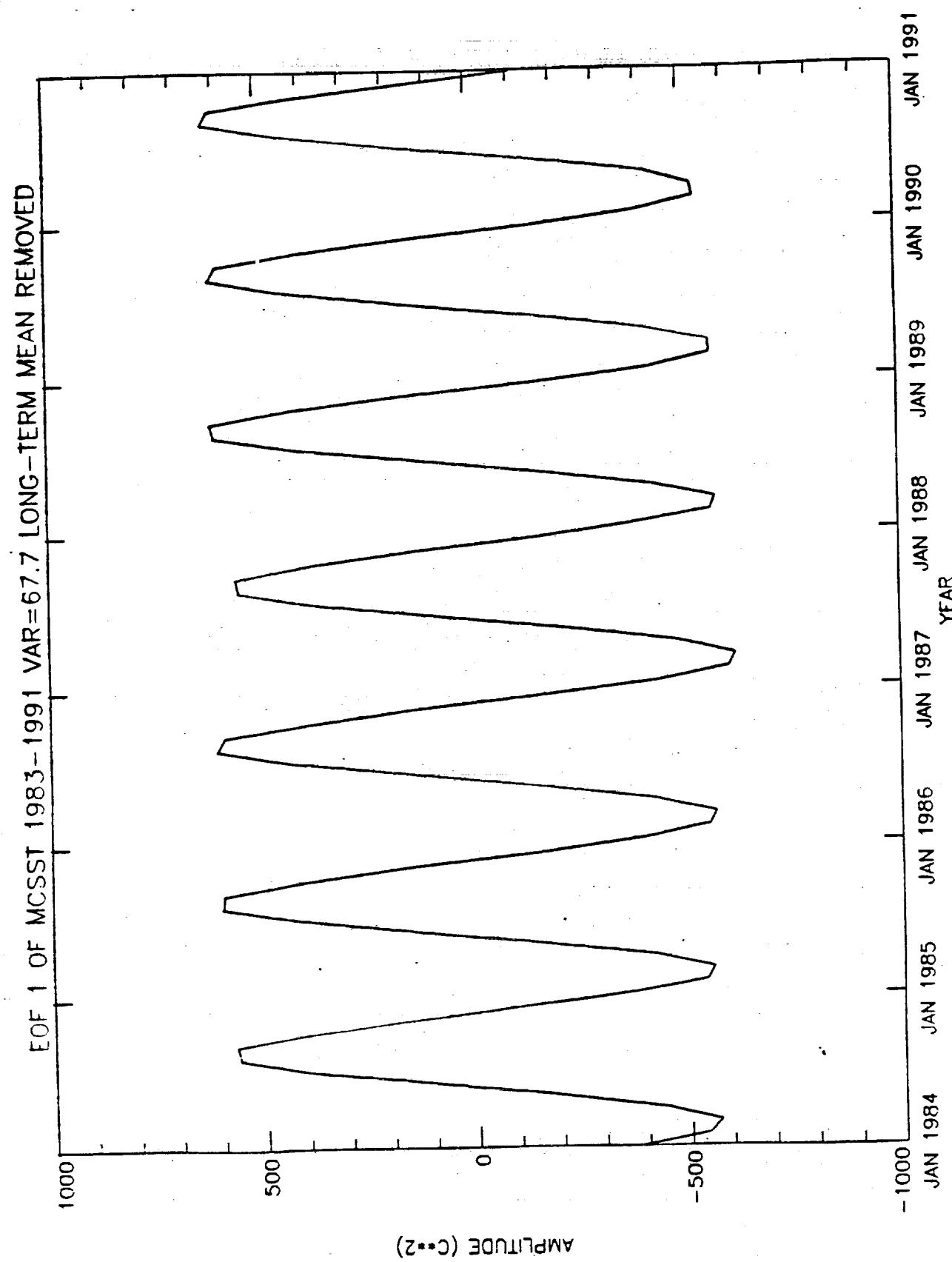
Ocean Basin or Region	Anomaly Cross Correlation	Effective Degrees of Freedom	Signal-to-Noise Variance Ratio	First Difference Cross Correlation	Mean MCSST Anomaly (°C)	Mean COADS Anomaly (°C)	Mean MCSST Standard Deviation (°C)	Mean COADS Standard Deviation (°C)
Global	0.65	19	1.14	0.02	-0.16	0.13	0.75	0.84
60°N-60°S, 0°-360°	0.55	40	0.56	0.21	-0.32	0.03	0.74	0.76
Northern Hemisphere 0°-60°N, 0°-360°	0.67	22	2.42	0.16	0.04	0.23	0.70	0.92
Southern Hemisphere 0°-60°S, 0°-360°	0.70	21	2.93	0.30	0.06	0.32	0.60	0.81
Indian Ocean 20°N-60°S, 30°E-120°E	0.66	26	0.59	0.23	-0.34	0.01	0.79	0.86
North Pacific Ocean 0°-60°N, 120°E-90°W	0.62	27	2.21	0.03	-0.04	0.15	0.70	0.95
South Pacific Ocean 0°-60°S, 120°E-80°W	0.43	20	0.49	0.36	-0.33	0.04	0.66	0.63
North Atlantic Ocean 0°-60°N, 0°-90°W	0.63	28	2.86	0.57	0.00	0.25	0.68	0.90
South Atlantic Ocean 0°-60°S, 0°-80°W	0.89	23	4.69	0.58	-0.03	0.50	0.75	1.19
El Niño 1 & 2 0°-10°S, 80°W-90°W	0.93	17	4.67	0.50	0.08	0.50	0.67	1.12
El Niño 3 6°N-6°S, 90°W-150°W	0.91	12	1.97	0.25	-0.17	0.22	0.62	0.89
El Niño 4 6°N-6°S, 160°E-150°W	0.43	26	1.27	0.25	-0.14	0.17	0.34	0.37
North Pacific Region 1 50°N-60°N, 155°W-175°W	0.69	23	0.51	-0.13	-0.17	0.01	0.66	0.58
North Atlantic Region 1 30°N-40°N, 60°W-80°W	0.50	23	0.34	0.51	-0.59	0.05	0.29	0.46
North Atlantic Region 2 15°N-25°N, 40°W-60°W								

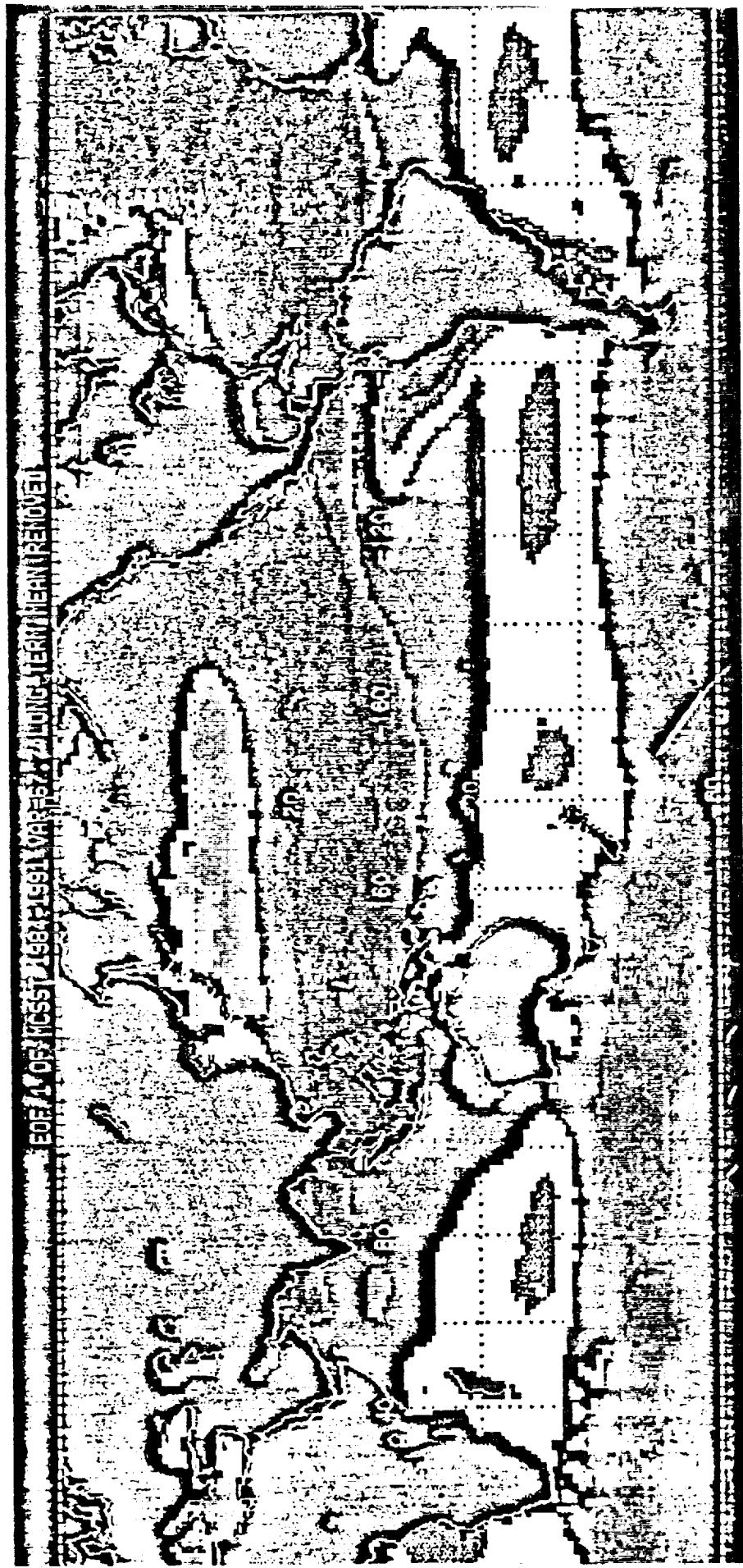
Table 3. Summary statistics for MCSST and COADS 1984-1988 anomaly cross correlations, means, and standard deviations. All anomaly cross correlations are significant at the 95% level except the North Atlantic Ocean and North Atlantic Region 2.

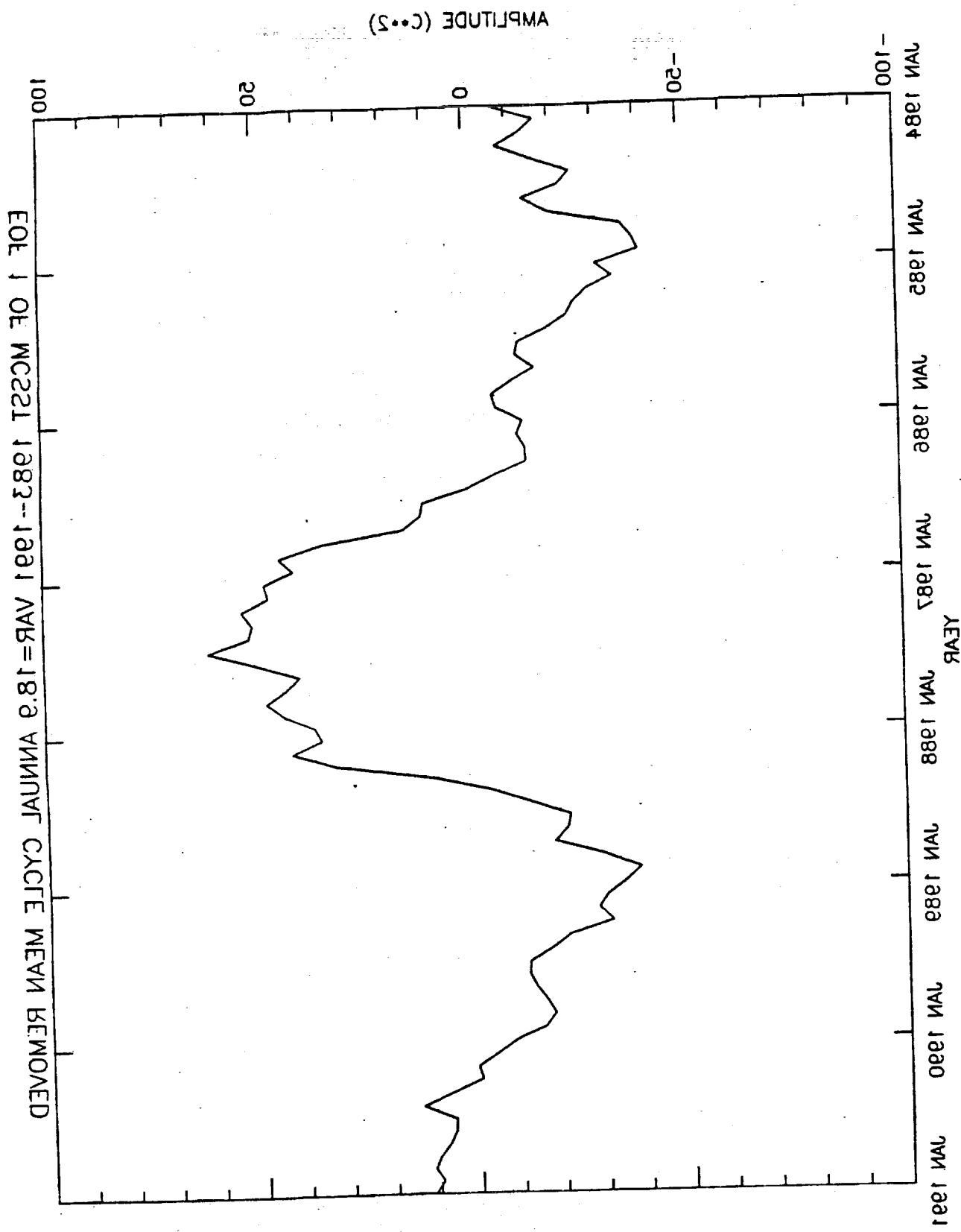
\* Significant at 95% for  $N_{eff}$

Ocean Basin or Region	Effective Degrees of Freedom	Signal-to-Noise Variance Ratio	First Monthly Cross Correlation	Mean MCSST Anomaly (°C)	Mean COADS Anomaly (°C)	Mean MCSST Standard Deviation (°C)	Mean COADS Standard Deviation (°C)
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Indian Ocean 20°N-60°S, 30°E-120°E	0.70	21	2.93	0.30	0.06	0.32	0.60
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North Atlantic Ocean 0°-60°N, 0°-90°W	0.43	20	0.49	0.36	-0.33	0.04	0.66
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El Niño 3 6°N-6°S, 90°W-150°W	0.93	17	4.67	0.50	0.08	0.50	0.67
El Niño 4 6°N-6°S, 160°E-150°W	0.91	12	1.97	0.25	-0.17	0.22	0.62
North Pacific Region 1 50°N-60°N, 155°W-175°W	0.43	26	1.27	0.25	-0.14	0.17	0.34
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North Atlantic Region 2 15°N-25°N, 40°W-60°W	0.50	23	0.34	0.51	-0.59	0.05	0.29
							0.46

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# 1. Validation criteria for satellite products

1.1. Are the physics of the radiative transfer sound?

1.2. How do the means and higher moments compare with in situ measurements?

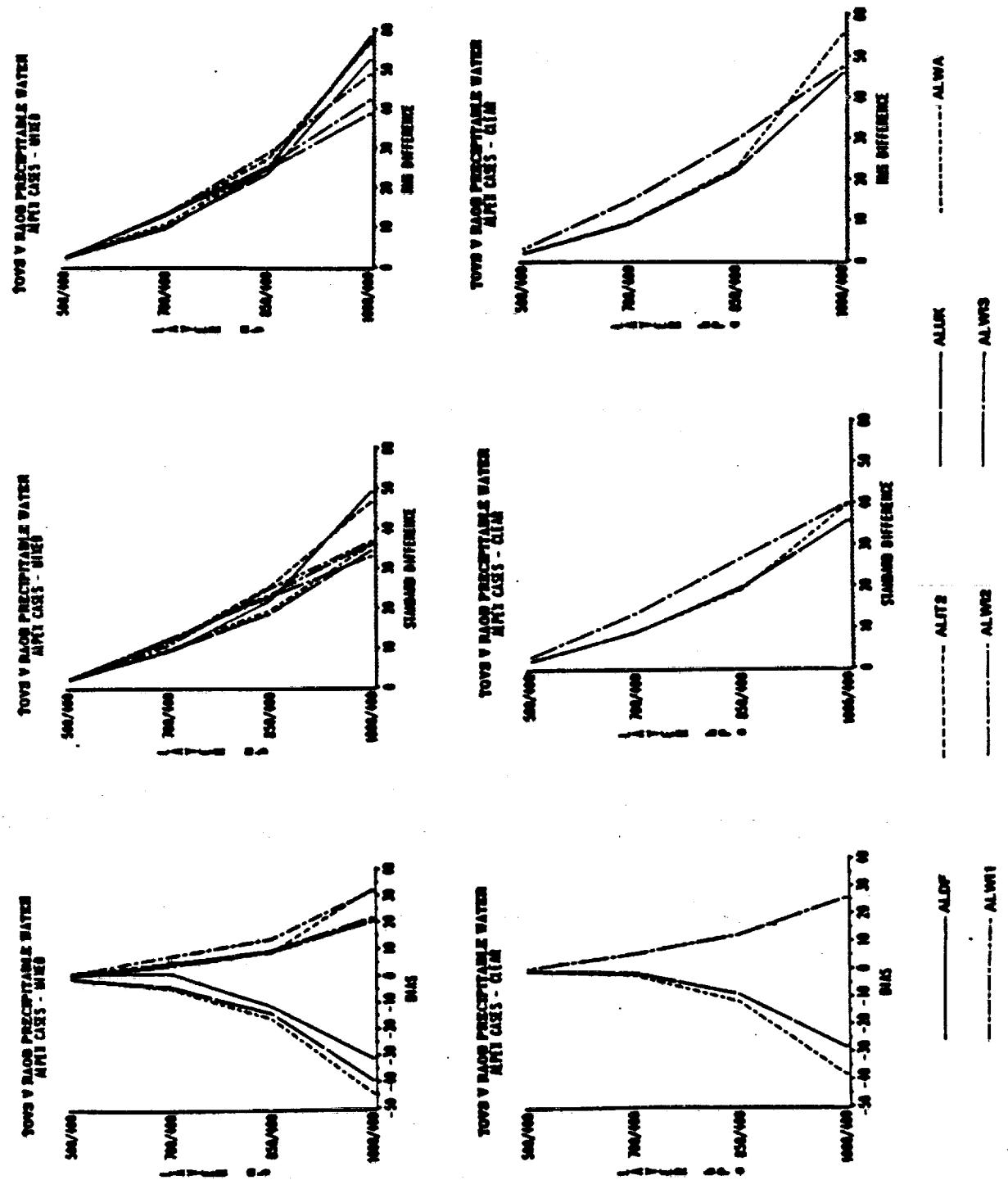
1.3. How do the spatial and temporal variations in the satellite data compare with other observations and hydrodynamic models?

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TABLE 1

Summary of contributions to the intercomparison study. (Note T represents temperature data, Z represents thickness data and P represents precipitable data, ITPP1, ITPP2, and ITPP3 represents International TOVS Processing Package 1, 2 and 3 respectively, RFG represents regression first guess, CFG represents climatology first guess, MFG represents first guess fields derived from a forecast model, SD indicates the use of surface data in the retrieval scheme, AVHRR represents the use of locally generated regression coefficients and NRC indicates the use of NESDIS regression coefficients.)

DATA ORIGIN	ALPK	CONTENT	DATA	TOT. NOBS	NOBS (CLEAR)	RET. SCHEME
British Met. Office	ALUK	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	"895	"430	Statistical (Modified ITPP1, NRC)
CIMSS/NOAA-NESDIS Wisconsin	ALW11	T, Z, P	clear only	"1719	"1719	Physical (Iterative, ITPP2, RFG, SD)
	ALW12	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	"1819	"1333	Physical (One step, ITPP3, CFG, SD)
	ALW13	T, Z, P	clear only	"1828	"1828	Physical (One step, ITPP3, RFG, SD)
DFVLR West Germany	ALDF	T, Z, P	clear only	"1389	"1389	Physical (Iterative, modified ITPP2, RFG, SD)
Laboratoire de Meteorologie Dynamique France	ALF1	T, Z	clear, cloudy, and microwave	"4180	"1079	Physical/ Statistical
NASA/GLAS United States	ALGA	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	"903	"614	Physical (Relaxation, MFG)
NOAA/NESDIS Washington	ALW1	T, Z	clear only	"223	"223	Statistical (Operational Algorithms)
University of Bologna Italy	ALY11	T, Z, P	cloudy only	"1517	-	Physical (Iterative, modified ITPP2)
	ALY12	T, Z, P	clear only	"1757	"1757	Physical (Iterative, modified ITPP2, SD)
Western Australian Institute of Tech.	ALWA	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	"2808	"1757	Statistical (Modified ITPP1, NRC)
DATA ORIGIN	TASHA	CONTENT	DATA	TOT. NOBS	NOBS (CLEAR)	RET. SCHEME
Bureau of Meteorology Australia	TAMU	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	"2037	"889	Physical (Modified ITPP3, RFG)
	TANU	T, Z, P	clear only	"1626	"1626	Statistical (ITPP3, RFG, SD)
NOAA-NESDIS	TANU	T, Z	clear only	"229	"229	Statistical (Modified ITPP1, NRC)
New Zealand Meteorological Service	TANU	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	"2049	"1329	Statistical (Operational Algorithms)
DATA ORIGIN	BS	CONTENT	DATA	TOT. NOBS	NOBS (CLEAR)	RET. SCHEME
Atmospheric Environment Services (AES) Canada	BSGA	T, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	"192	"95	Statistical (Modified ITPP1, NRC)
British Met. Office	BSUK	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy, and microwave	"163	"83	Statistical (Modified ITPP1, NRC)
CIMSS/NOAA-NESDIS	BSVI	T, Z, P	clear, cloudy,	"184	"48	Physical (Iterative, AVHRR)



**Figure 9a** Basic statistics for TOVS retrievals compared with radiosondes for precipitable water observations for both the mixed and clear case. Precipitable water units: (cm x 100)

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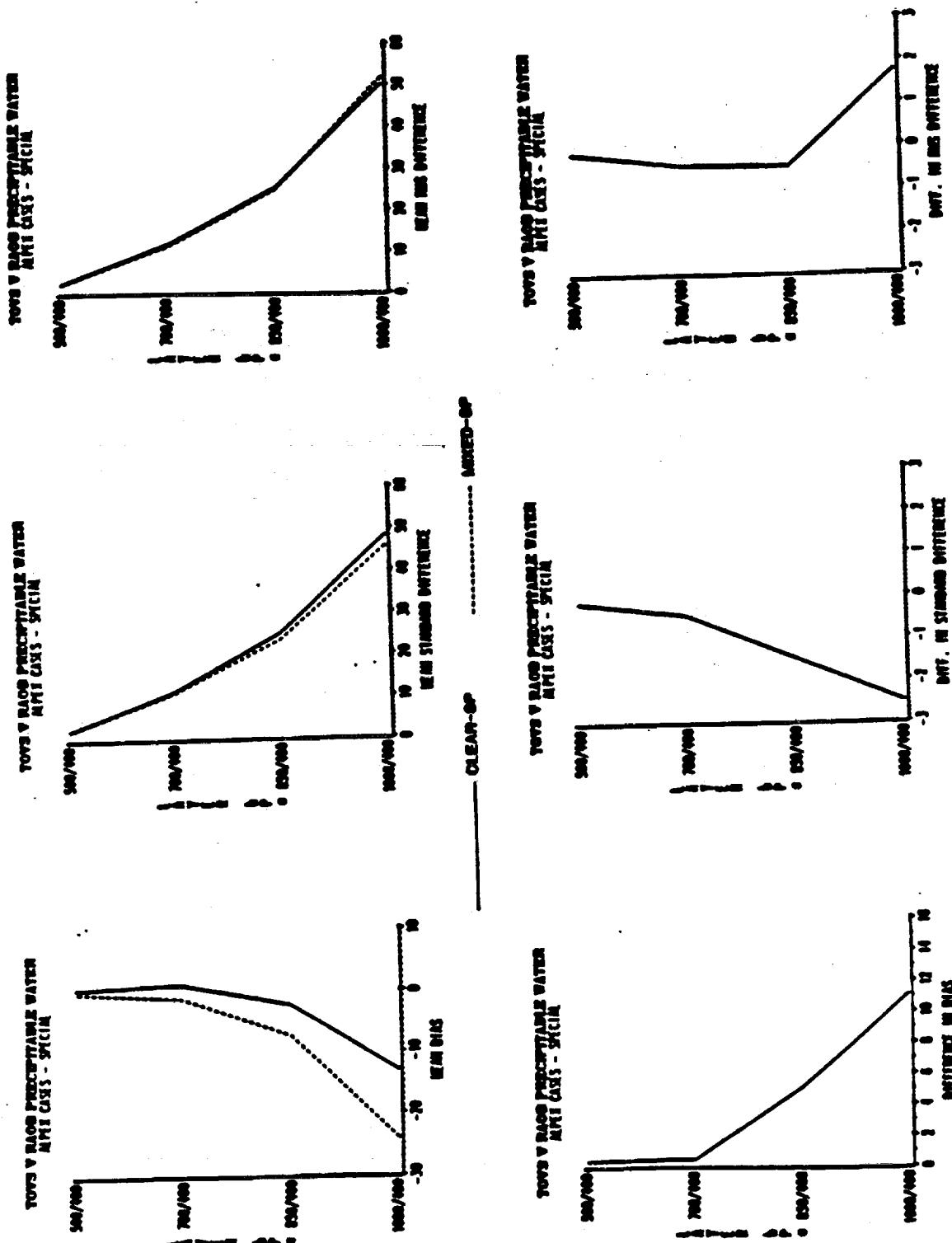
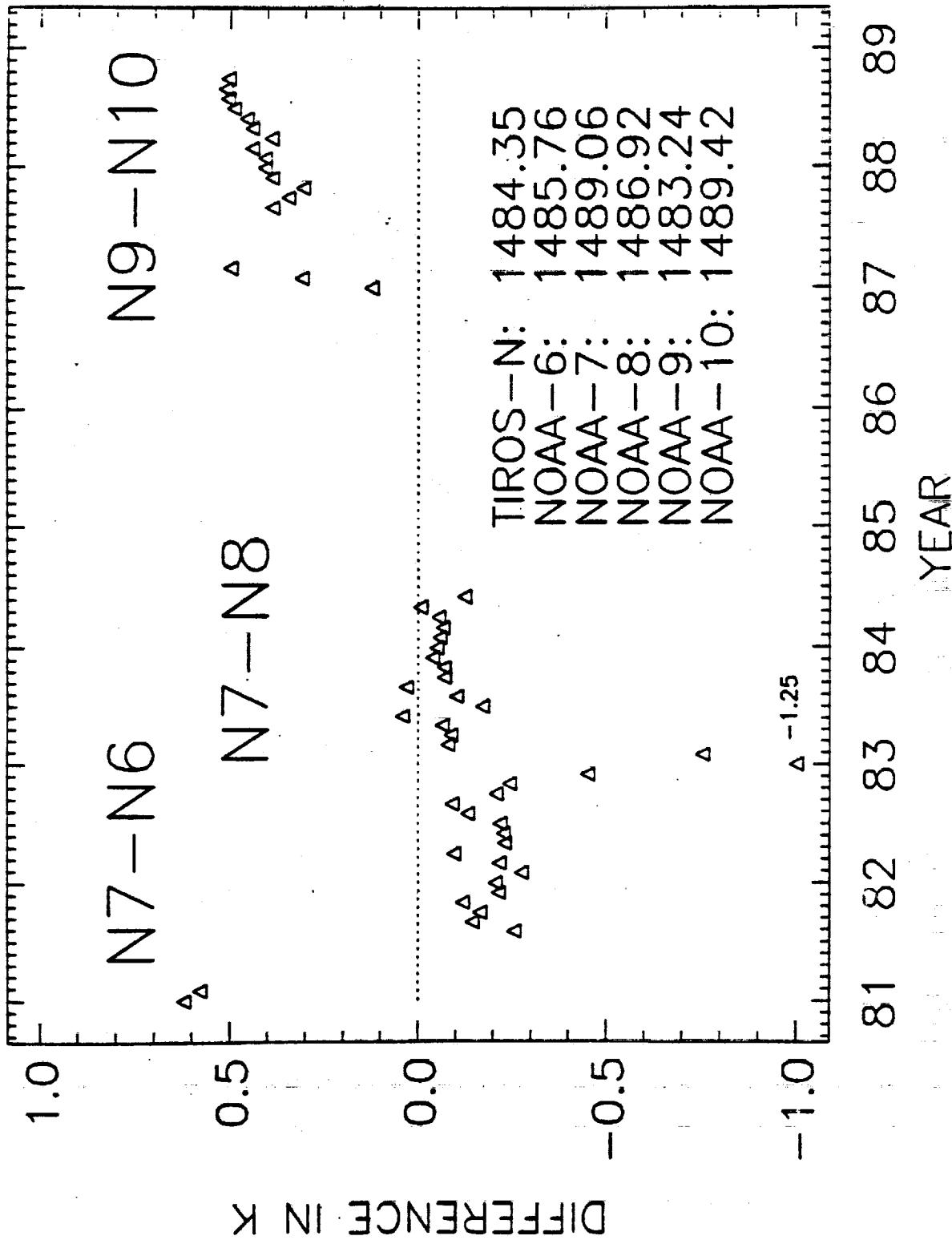
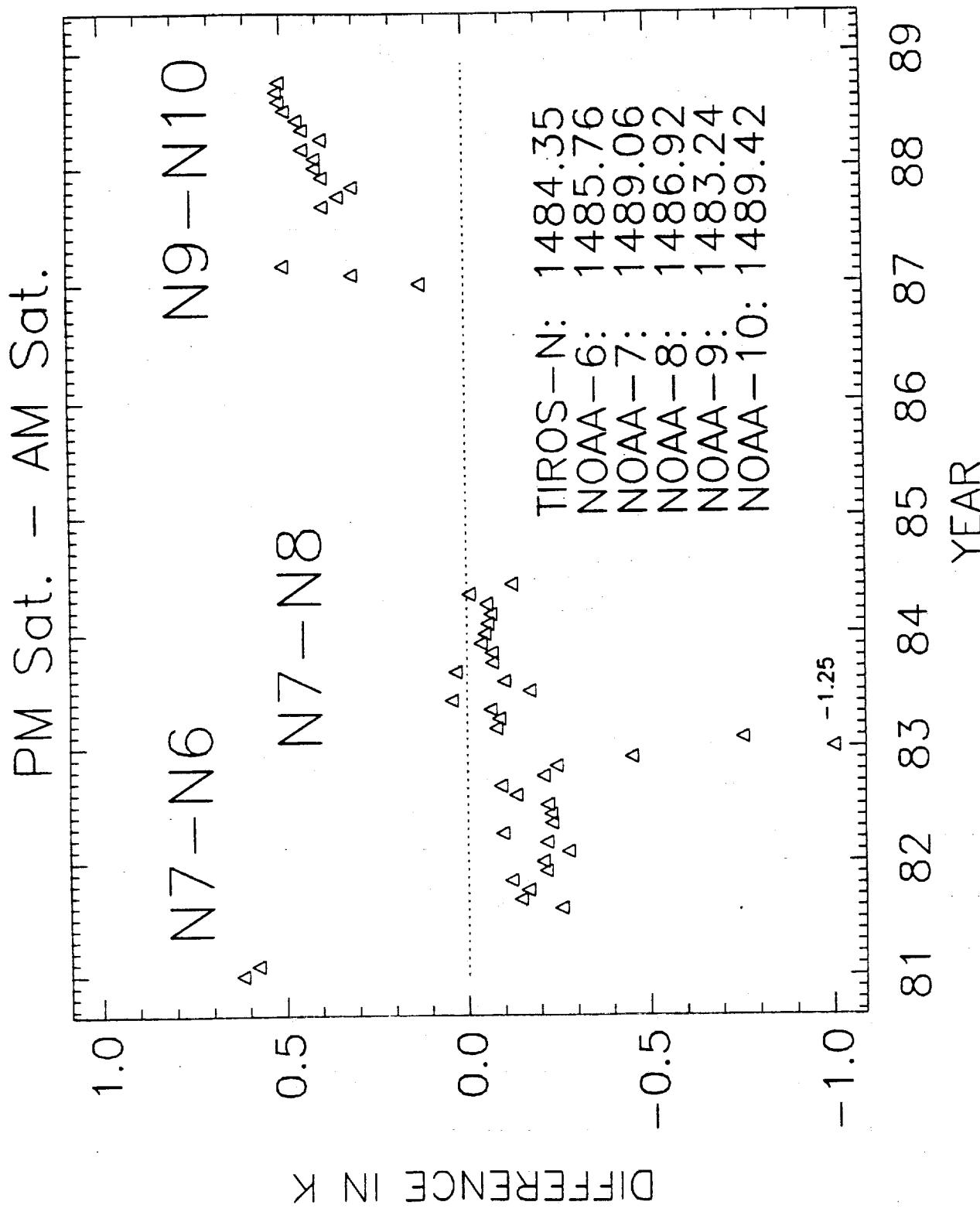


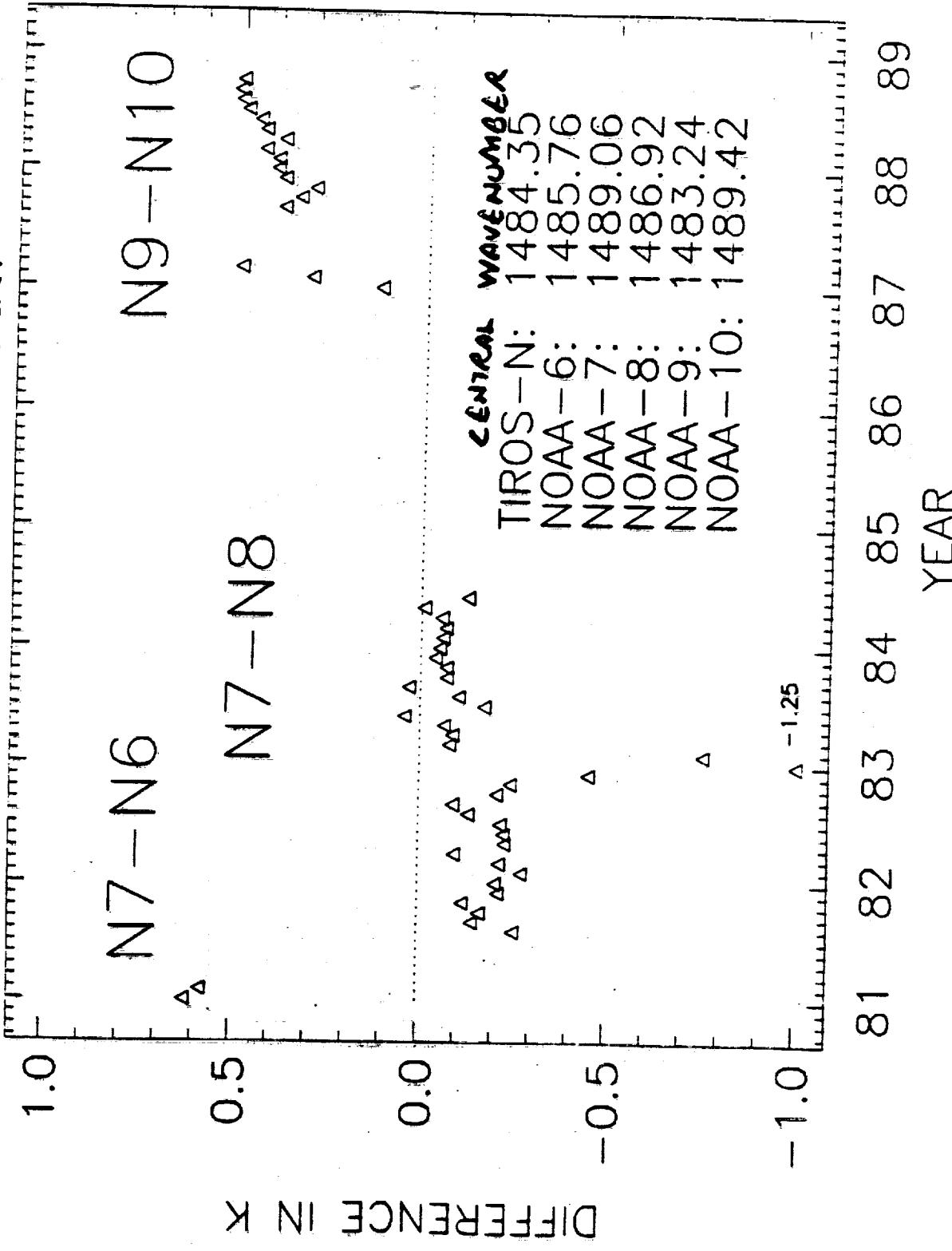
Figure 10. Mean statistics and the difference in mean statistics for precipitable water for the ALWU, ALWA and ALWU<sub>2</sub> cases.

PM Sat. - AM Sat.

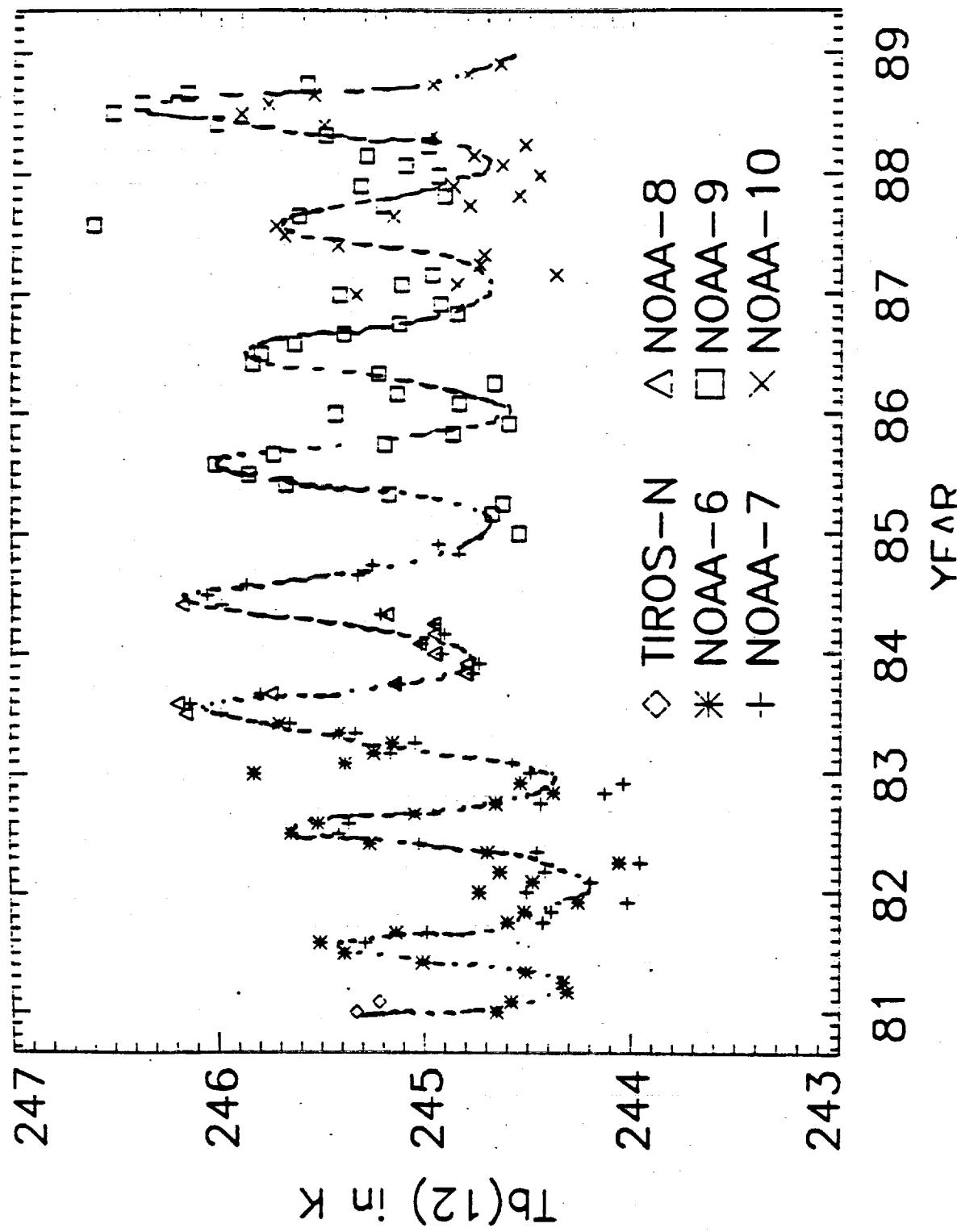




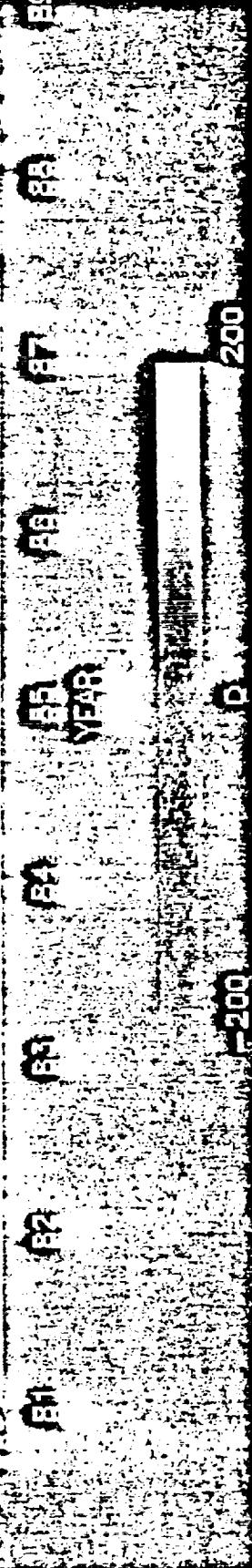
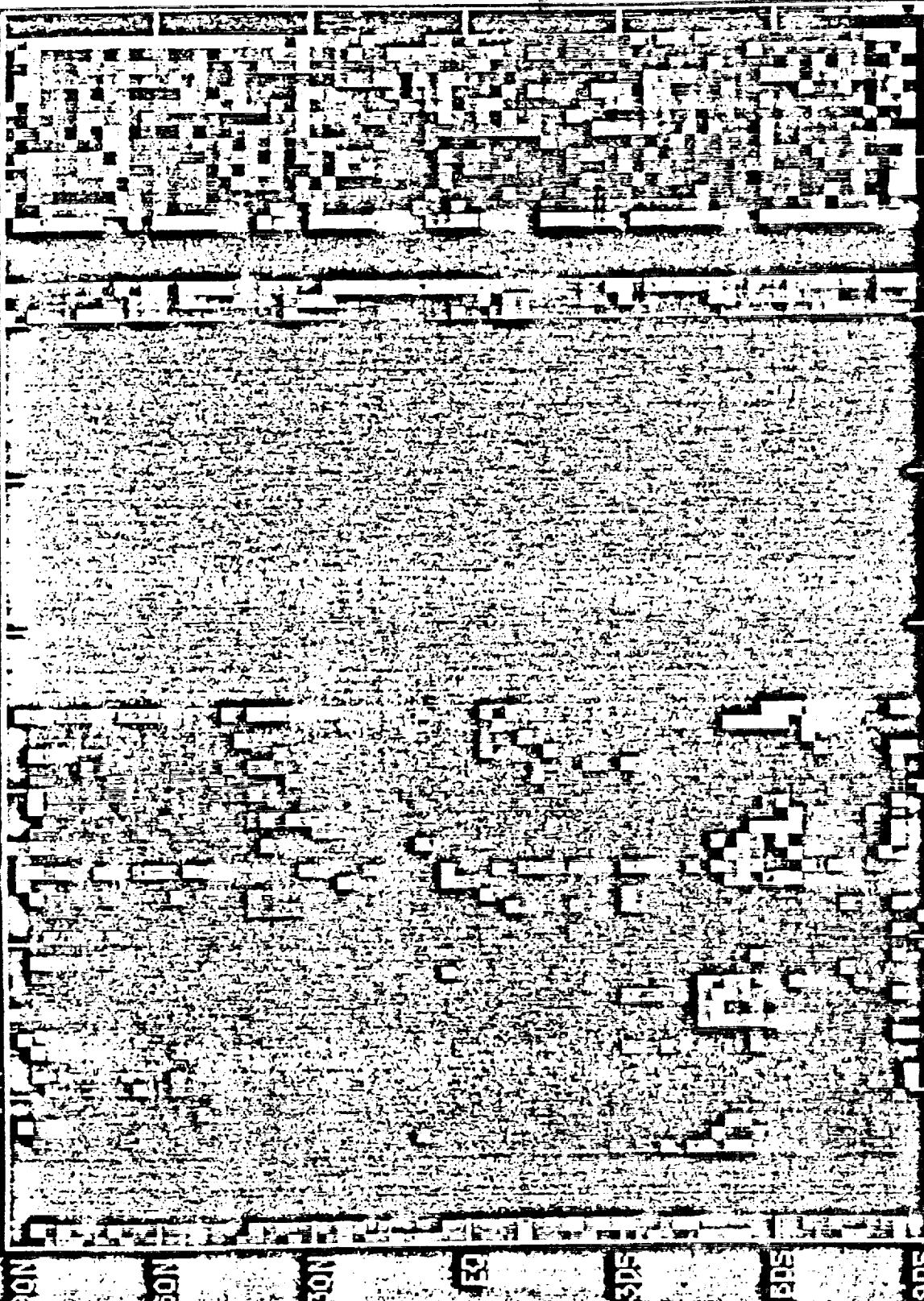
GLOBAL HIRS CHANNEL 12 BRIGHTNESS TEMPERATURE  
PM Sat. - AM Sat.



# Global, monthly HIRS CHANNEL 12

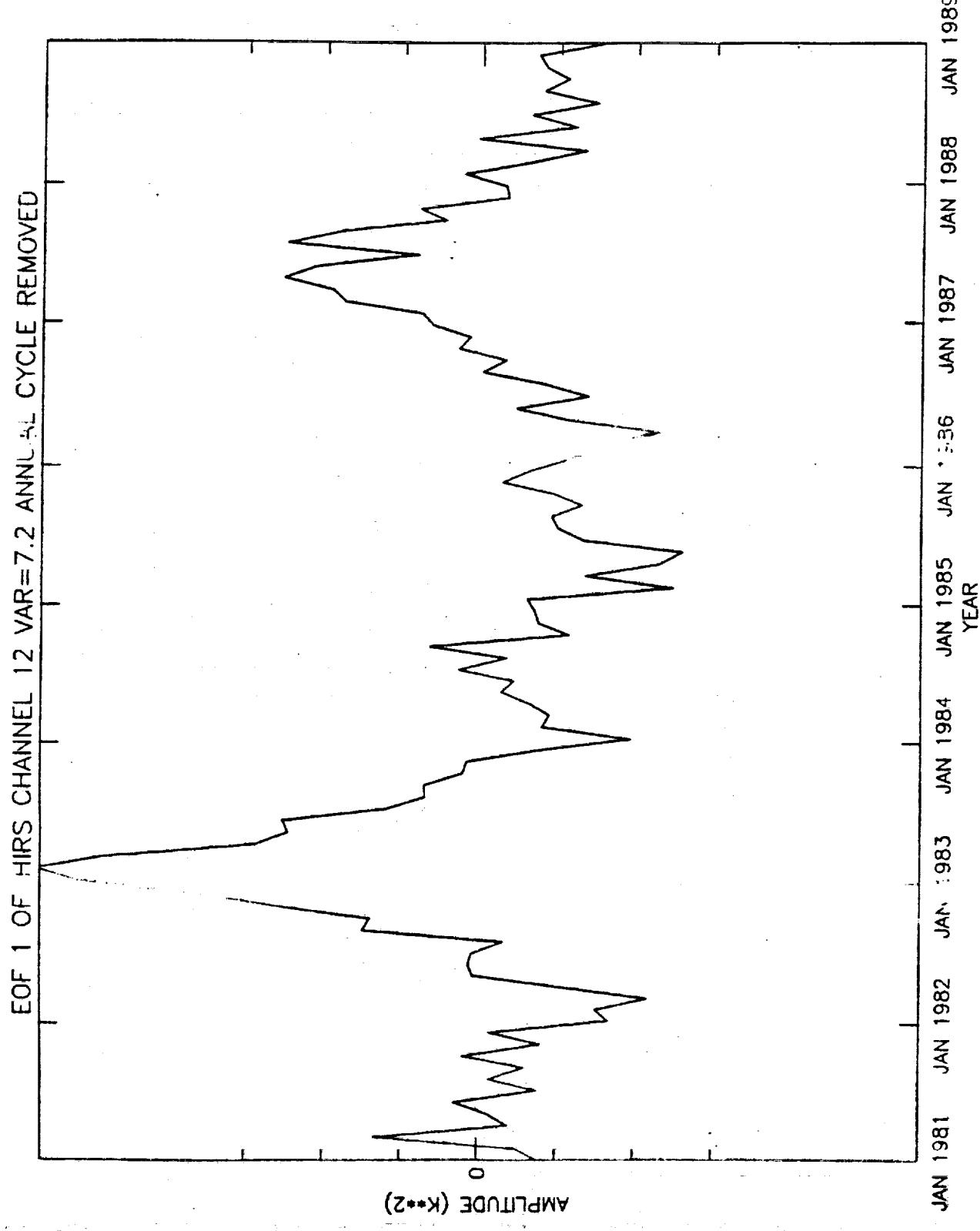


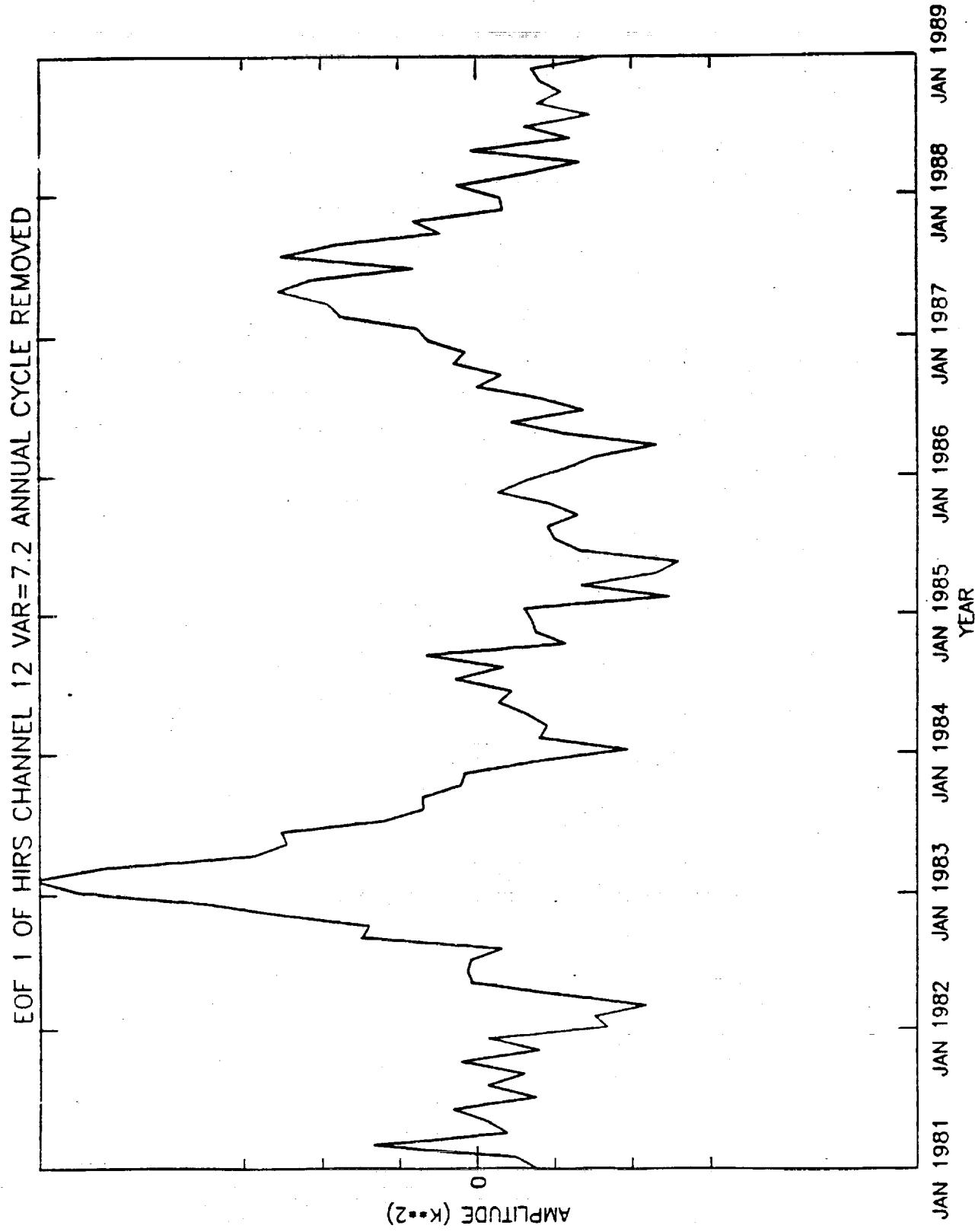
PMISATAGAMI SATELLITE MONTHLY ZVERAGE K-100



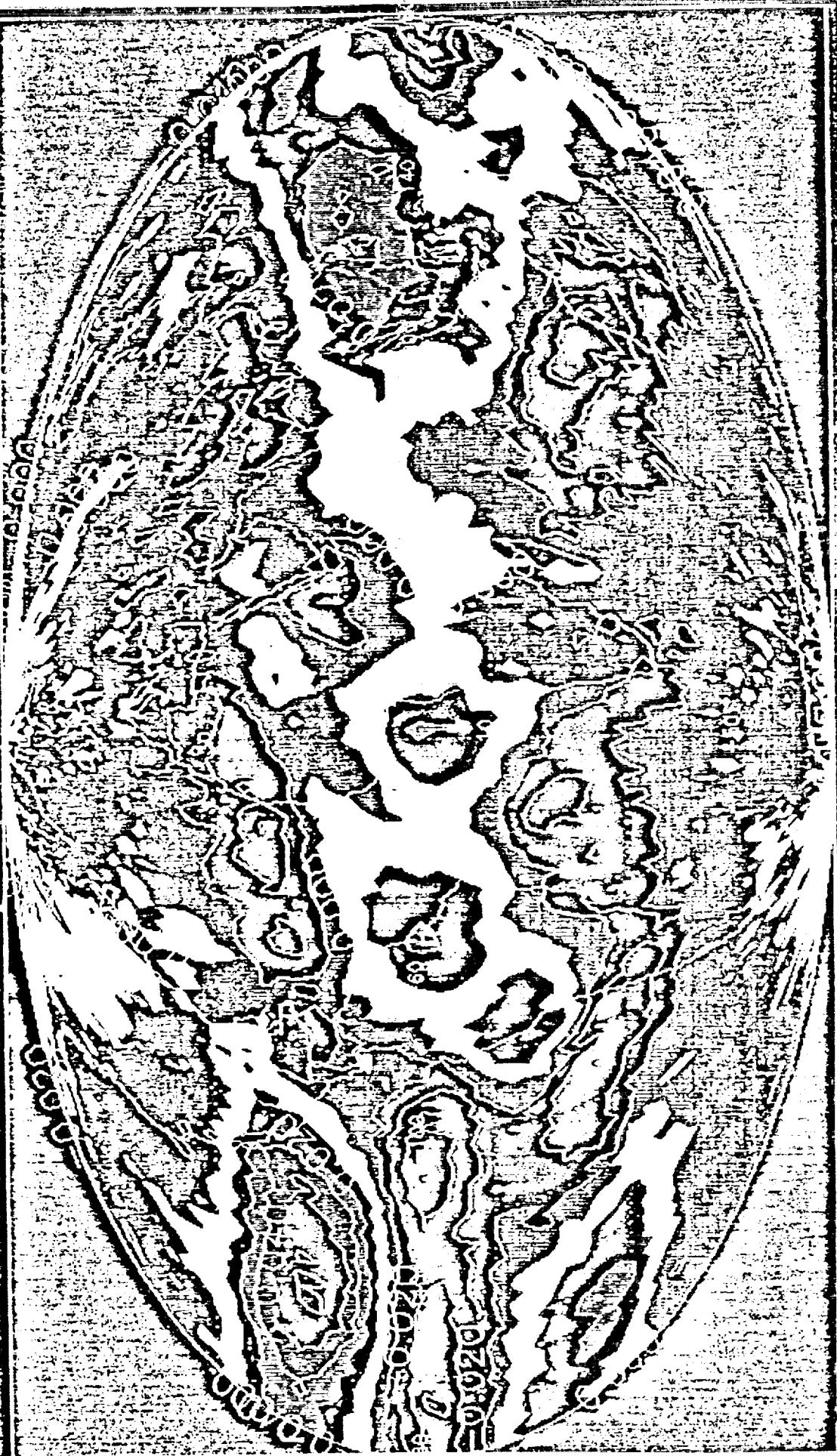
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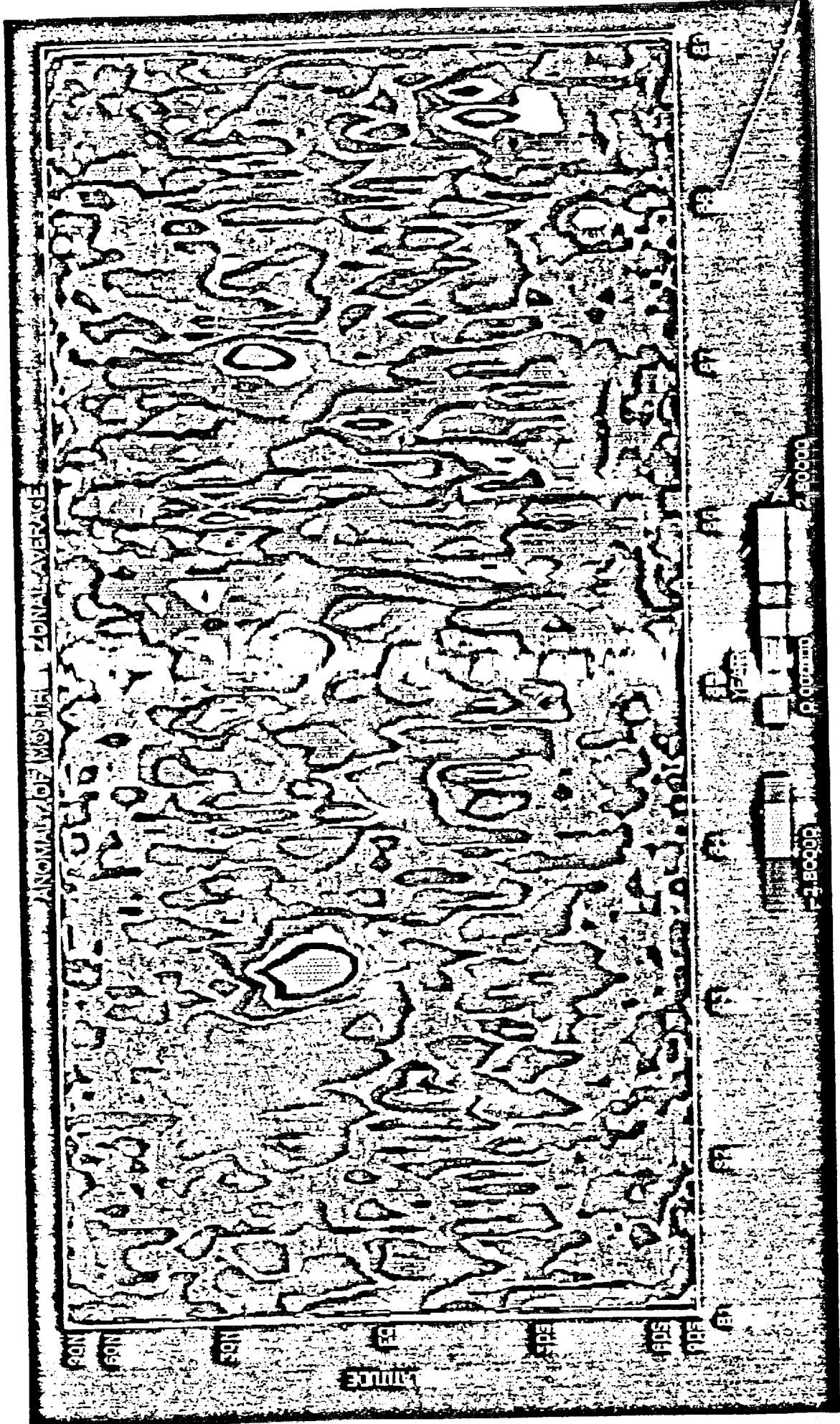






END OF THE HILLS CHANNEL - 12 1/2 FEET ANNUAL VOLUME REMOVED





### 3. Lessons of history - Applications to the EOS era

- 3.1. We must establish long-term, global validation programs based on the three principles of validation
- 3.2. Both satellite and in situ data must be subject to rigorous quality control and continuous monitoring
- 3.3. Extend and examine the overlap periods of similar instruments on different satellites
- 3.4. Sampling of most fields must extend over several ENSO cycles, since most fields show large interannual variability related to ENSO.

### ~~3. Lessons of history - Applications to the EOS era~~

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51 NOAK-110 PWC (KCG/AM-2) JAN 31-1980 4 1980



70N

35N

EC

35S

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70E

0 40E 80E 120E 160E 120W 80W 40W

WEINIZ SSM/1 PWC (KCG/AM-2) JAN 31-1980 4 1980



70N

35N

EC

35S

70S

0 40E 80E 120E 160E 120W 80W 40W

WEINIZ SSM/1 PWC (KCG/AM-2) JAN 31-1980 4 1980